

Workgroup on Trash Burning
October 26, 2006

Condensed Meeting Notes

Top 10 priorities from the last meeting were combined into six priorities. Each workgroup member assigned themselves to two workgroups.

Health Issues:

Group members: Susan Salterberg, Stu Schmitz, Carole Lamphier, Jim McGraw, Beth Hicks, Leslie Goldsmith, Becky Jolly, Chris Petersen, Jane Miller

Environmental Issues:

Group members: Mark Warren, Joe Sanfilippo, Chris Petersen, Rodger Kaster, Mike Boesen, Don Reasoner, Gary Young, Neila Seaman

Education/Behavior and Resistance to change:

Group members: Jen Ryan, Jill Cornell, Carole Lamphier, Leslie Goldsmith, Susan Salterberg, Nicki Stajcar

Incorporated (towns/cities) and Unincorporated:

Group members: Mark Warren, Don Reasoner, Rodger Kaster, Cindy Turkle, Tom Hadden, Jennifer Ryan

Consequences/enforcement (+/-) and if people burn leaves, they'll burn everything:

Group members: Joe Sanfilippo, Nicki Stajcar, Tom Newbanks, Gary Young, Joseph Karge, Jill Cornell, Neila Seaman

Cost/convenience of options with options available:

Group members: Jim McGraw, Cindy Turkle, Tom Hadden, Jane Miller, Stu Schmitz, Beth Hicks, Tom Newbanks

Workgroup Position

There are health/environmental issues regarding the burning of trash. The workgroup believes that a phased-in implementation plan that is supported by targeted education is the best approach to achieve a trash burning ban. A state law that bans trash burning will allow cities to implement ordinances where they are currently restricted from doing so due to local political considerations.

Workgroup Recommendations

1. Trash burn ban in incorporated areas

A law that bans all trash burning in incorporated areas (cities) would be implemented over a 3 year period.

An Alternate option would be population based:

-2500+ ban by July 2008

-500-2500 ban by July 2010

Trash pickup would be provided by the city or an outside hauler, or could include a permitted citizen convenience center.

Provide model ordinances, sample contracts, bidding document examples, billing approaches examples, special needs programs,

Financing options – SWAP grant money, utility fees

2. State-wide trash burn ban

Law that bans trash burning statewide within five years of banning burning in incorporated areas. Legislation could mandate counties to develop a strategy (working with solid waste management commission) and timeline for rural collection.

Alternate option: Statewide ban by 2020 that is tied to the Department of Public Health's "Healthy Iowans" goal.

Include a county opt-out exception or time extension option: Develop criteria to allow county supervisors to provide documentation that there are not adequate collection options available for residential waste collection.

Services could be provided through cooperative groups (28E), zoning, contracting, county-operated.

Financing options- property tax or special assessment.

3. Legislature should consider phase-in to a total burn ban (yard waste and garbage).

Overarching considerations for all three recommendations

Administrative code definitions in current open burning and solid waste rules need to be clarified

Waste alternatives

- Have to be affordable. Also must be in place (not just a landfill), including markets for recycling, etc.
- Community partnering opportunities (public-private/public-public) – recyclable issues, equipment sharing. (Resource Inventory to drive partnerships) i.e. cardboard

Consequences/enforcement considerations

- Graduated fine structure (fines go back to that local jurisdiction, not just the state's general fund) with consequences high enough to discourage burning and for better use of enforcement resources.
- Permitting? Legislature may not ban burning, and might implement a permit structure instead.
- Increased resources need to be provided...cost of infrastructure, enforcement, illegal dumping, buy-in by cities, education.
- Tax incentives to ban burning?

Education/Behavior and Resistance to change

Education would be conducted in conjunction with the phase-in of approved legislation. Tailor-made to accommodate 500-2500 population based. It is also recognized that an education plan for obtaining a burn ban will need to be developed.

-Audiences (priorities), public officials, decision-makers (enforcement), public (children-elderly), urban, rural, those who burn/those who don't burn.

Identify the problems as they relate to the health/environment, including gaps in existing information and how they could be filled. Also identify resources available to regarding what to do about the problem.

Potential messages:

1. Stories of real people (crying kid with asthma) compelling stories, local consideration (burn barrel scenario)
2. Education in schools – kids go home to parents
3. What's in it for me?
4. Asthma walk
5. Research (well-documented)
6. Dioxin – eat, drink, bio-accumulation, rural
7. Stewards of environment
8. Health – asthma and others, values, well being
9. Health care costs/financial
10. Environment (air-shed compared to watershed)
11. Compare burn barrel to incinerator
12. Air quality index, travel, Iowa media, does Iowa have air issues?
13. Enforced/told what to do, results in changed behavior
14. Education gives perspective.
15. Alternatives/options for waste management
16. Face to face – ammunition to be the sales people
17. Individuals vs. groups – legislators, public advocates for change
18. Economics, savings – state supported healthcare, numbers from local hospitals
19. Give solutions

Approaches:

1. Face to face with public officials
2. Curriculum – environment integrated, into math, reading, etc.
3. Family life issues – extension, libraries, church and civic groups
4. Word of mouth
5. Mass media public awareness campaign – sponsored by insurance company
6. Grassroots
7. Equip public officials with communication materials, fact sheets, press packet, presentations – tailored to fit their community.
8. Unincorporated as part of the package
9. Network the networks – identification of resource people
10. Focus group testing

11. Minimize waste – printed materials, CD s, mass production
12. Resource people - \$ toward them